

## REPORT

OF

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 17th February 1883.



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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	<b>BENGALI.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>			
2	"Bhārat Hitaishī" ... ..	Burrisal	.....	
3	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
5	"Jātiya Suhrid" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	11th February 1883.
6	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha" ... ..	Commillah	.....	
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
7	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Comillah	700	12th ditto.
8	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
9	"Bangabāsi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	10th ditto.
10	"Bārtābaha" ... ..	Pubna	.....	10th ditto.
11	"Bhārat Bandhu" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	10th ditto.
12	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensing	671	13th ditto.
13	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	
14	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Burdwan	296	9th ditto.
15	"Chāruvārtā" ... ..	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	5th February & 12th February 1883.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	
17	"Dūt" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
18	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	16th February.
19	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	.....	10th ditto.
20	"Halisahar Prakāshikā" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	10th ditto.
21	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	7th February & 14th February 1883.
22	"Medini" ... ..	Midnapore	.....	12th February.
23	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	
24	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
25	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	12th ditto.
26	"Paridarshak" ... ..	Sylhet	.....	4th ditto.
27	"Pratikar" ... ..	Berhampore	275	



No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI—concluded.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
28	"Rajshahye Samvád" ... ..	Beauleah	.....	
29	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... ..	Kakiniá, Rungpore	250	8th February 1883.
30	"Sádháraní" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	11th ditto.
31	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	
32	"Som Prakásh" ... ..	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	.....	12th ditto.
33	"Sudhákár" ... ..	Mymensing	.....	
34	"Sulabha Samáchár" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	10th ditto.
35	"Sríhatta Prakásh" ... ..	Sylhet	440	
<i>Daily.</i>				
36	"Samvád Prabhákár" ... ..	Calcutta	700	9th to 14th February 1883.
37	"Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	9th to 16th ditto.
38	"Samachár Chandriká" ... ..	Ditto	625	8th, 9th, and 15th ditto.
39	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... ..	Ditto	500	
40	"Prabháti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	15th and 16th ditto.
41	"Samáchár Sudhábarsan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Bhárat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	1st February 1883.
44	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	29th January and 12th February 1883.
45	"Uchit Baktá" ... ..	Ditto	.....	10th February 1883.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ... ..	Calcutta	250	6th ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Akhhár-i-Darussaltanat" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	13th ditto.
<i>Bi-Weekly.</i>				
48	"Amir-ul-Akhhár" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
<b>ASSAMESE.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
49	"Assam Vilásiní" ... ..	Sibsagar	.....	
<b>URIYA.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
50	"Utkal Dípiká" ... ..	Cuttack	200	3rd ditto.
51	"Utkal Darpan" ... ..	Balasore	160	
52	"Balasore Samvad Váhika" ... ..	Ditto	125	1st ditto.
53	"Purusottam Patriká" ... ..	Pooree	.....	29th January 1883.
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
54	"Mayurbhunj Pákshik Pátriká" ... ..	Mayurbhunj	.....	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
55	"Kshatriya Patriká" ... ..	Patna	.....	



## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

The *Paridarshak*, of the 4th February, contains an article headed "The Indian Civil Service Examinations." The

PARIDARSHAK,  
February 4th, 1883.

The Indian Civil Service Examinations.

writer remarks that the subject of the Indian Civil Service Examination is one the very mention of which is enough to make the people of India despair of justice at the hands of the British Government. The authorities, it would seem, have resolved upon preventing Natives of this country from appearing at that examination. The people would not have had so much reason for regret if they had been from the first declared ineligible for admission into the Indian Civil Service. But the British Government would seem to have felt that it would be wrong to exclude Natives from all share in the administration of their country. They therefore had recourse to such expedients as the "Native Civil Service" and the reduction of the limit of age from 21 to 19 years. This last measure has practically made it impossible for Native youths to compete for admission into the Indian Civil Service.

2. The same paper remarks that a perusal of Mr. Macaulay's speech

PARIDARSHAK.

Mr. Macaulay on Local Self-Government.

on Local Self-Government will clearly show that, as far as legislation on this subject is concerned, the Government of Bengal is exceedingly anxious to act in the spirit of the Resolution of the Government of India. Mr. Macaulay's speech bears ample evidence of the desire on the part of Government that the benefit of Local Self-Government may extend gradually to all the districts of Bengal.

3. The *Cháruvartá*, of the 5th February, makes the following observations regarding the Sherepore Munsiff:—The

CHARU VARTÁ,  
February 5th, 1883.

The Sherepore Munsiff.

editor states that the munsif of Sherepore having been transferred to Hoshenpore under the orders of the District Judge, the inhabitants presented a petition to the Judge for his re-transfer to Sherepore. The Judge, however, has rejected the petition. Now the Judge, before doing so ought to have taken the facts of the case into consideration. He had no reason to doubt the genuineness of the petition, signed, as it was, by the zemindars, talukdars, and other well-known respectable gentlemen of the place. That the transfer of the munsif will cause serious inconvenience to the inhabitants probably requires no proof. Some idea of the magnitude of the loss which is likely to be suffered by litigants from this measure may be formed from the fact that the cases which were instituted during a temporary absence of the Munsif in Hoshenpore on a previous occasion, remain undecided up to the present date. Again, the properties, both moveable and immovable, under attachment, must remain in that state till the Munsif's return to Sherepore. Now will not this involve the litigants in heavy loss? Again, the defendants, taking advantage of the absence of the Munsif, might sell their properties or go away from the place.

In case the Sherepore Munsiff be amalgamated with that of Jamalpore, the inhabitants of Sherepore will have no end of trouble and inconvenience. Besides, as Sherepore is by no means inferior to Jamalpore in wealth, commerce, and education of its inhabitants, there could be no reason why it should not be allowed to have the advantages of an independent Munsiff. In conclusion, the editor asks the District Judge to go into the facts as embodied in the petition, and not reject it hastily without taking heed of the complaints of the petitioners.

4. The same paper contains some remarks regarding the constitution of the Union Committee, as propounded in Mr.

CHARU VARTÁ.

Self-Government in Bengal.

Macaulay's scheme. Mr. Macaulay does not think it desirable that the Union Committee should have an independent position. Now, if Mr. Macaulay reserves the Union Committee



simply for the purpose of carrying out the orders of the local Board, then the people will be deprived of half the advantages which would otherwise have accrued from the Union Committee. Again, if he intends to constitute the Union Committee with members taken from village mandals and putwaries, then he is surely in error; for, though these mandals and putwaries may be admitted to have a thorough local knowledge, they generally labour under one great defect—they are, most of them at any rate, dishonest.

In case the village is made the scene of operation of Local Self-Government, the party-spirit which still rages there will very likely be imported into the deliberations of the rural Board. Again, if Government is really desirous of establishing the Union Committee, then it ought to render the office of a member of the Committee one of respectability.

CHARU VARTA,  
February 5th, 1883.

5. The same paper makes the following comments on Mr. Cunningham's Minute on the Rent Bill:—  
Justice Cunningham's Minute on the Rent Bill, Mr. Cunningham seems to be of opinion that, since the number of landholders is smaller than that of ryots, the immemorial rights of the former are not worth even a *cowrie*. Now, this principle would be dangerous in its application. Again, Mr. Cunningham remarks that in all countries the zemindars have been forced to part with their rights for the benefit of the ryot. Now, this is nothing new, but it may be asked, have they alone been forced to do so? Has not the ryot been compelled to part with his rights as well? Again, according to Mr. Cunningham, though a Government is fully justified in removing the grievances of the majority of those that live under it, the present Government has no such end in view in bringing in the present Bill. If that be the case, asks the editor, what possible ends has the Government in view in introducing the Bill? The editor sees no necessity on the part of the Government for interfering with the rights of the zemindar. It is perfectly possible to ameliorate the condition of the ryots by other means. The only solace to the editor in the midst of this unpleasant state of things is that the matter is going to be discussed under the administration of Lord Ripon.

CHARU VARTA.

6. The same paper draws the attention of the Government to the mischief, often amounting to total ruin, arising from the operations of the Dearah Survey, to petty zemindars.

CHARU VARTA.

7. The same paper regrets to notice that the news of the oppression committed by the servants of Government on the zemindars of Chittagong on the occasion of the recent survey, has not yet reached the ears of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
February 7th, 1883.

8. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 7th February, contains observations on Mr. Monroe's minute on local self-Government. According to the editor, Mr. Monroe has, by his recent Minute, shewn himself utterly ignorant of the state of things he condemns. Mr. Monroe ought to be relieved of his present high office, and transferred to some high position in the Military Department, where his services might be better utilised.

RUNGPORE DIK  
PRAKASH,  
February 8th, 1883.

9. The *Rungpore Dikprakash*, of the 8th February, contains an article on the scheme of Local Self-Government as expounded by Mr. Macaulay. The editor dwells on the necessity of creating District Boards, on the ground that, without them, there is very little chance of getting a sufficiently large number of really able men to carry out the proposed scheme. The number of such men to be found in sub-divisions is not large. Again, it is desirable that Magistrates should have no connection with the scheme of Self-Government, inasmuch as their interference might lead to results by no means



desirable. The Central Board, it is contemplated, will have the power and superintendence over Local Boards and Union Committees. But one Central Board will hardly be competent to discharge the duties which will be imposed upon it. This again points to the necessity of creating District Boards.

The revenue which Government contemplates placing at the disposal of Local Boards and Union Committees will, it seems, be hardly sufficient for their requirements. This defect should be removed by law. Again, it is desirable that the number of members composing the Central Board should be increased, and that one-half of them should be selected by Government, and the other half by the people.

10. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Criminal Procedure

Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Code, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th February, is in uncertainty as to how far the proposals made by Mr. Ilbert in this connection will be carried out in practice. If they are ever carried out, Mr. Ilbert will earn fame, and the people will regard themselves as lucky. Whatever the results may be, the proposed legislation is eminently worthy of Lord Ripon's administration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
February 9th, 1883.

11. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of Govern-

The certificate procedure under the Public Demands Recovery Act in Burdwan.

ment to the hardship which is being caused to people in the Burdwan district by the enforcement of the certificate procedure under the Public Demands Recovery Act. Quite recently an estate worth a lakh of rupees was sold by public auction for Rs. 1,500. Numerous instances of a similar nature are constantly occurring. The law indeed contains provisions for giving a notice to the defaulter before his property is put up to sale; but the peons who are entrusted with the task of serving the notices do not, as a rule, serve them timely upon the proper parties.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

12. The *Sulábha Samáchar*, of the 10th February, is of opinion that

Ryot's representative in the Indian Legislative Council.  
Mr. Mackenzie.

if, in view of the forthcoming debate on the Rent Bill, Government desires to appoint some one to the Indian Legislative Council to represent the ryots' cause, its choice should fall upon one of its own officers. The editor is further of opinion that there is no one among Government officers so able to discharge this duty as Mr. Mackenzie, who has in his draft Rent Bill given strong proof of his love for the ryots of this country.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
February 10th, 1883.

13. The *Bartabaha*, of the 10th February, observes that the partial

Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code.

amendment of an objectionable section of the Criminal Procedure Code, which has been proposed by Mr. Ilbert, is far from satisfactory. Instead of amending the obnoxious section treating of the trial of European offenders, the Council should repeal it altogether. The writer takes the occasion to point out that section 197 of the Code should also be repealed. On the strength of the provisions of this section, public officers not unoften act in contravention of all law and with perfect impunity, inasmuch as it is not always easy or practicable for the injured, particularly if they are poor or ignorant persons, to ask the permission of Government to prosecute their oppressor. Even if this section is not repealed, it should at least be so far amended as to leave the task of obtaining the required permission of Government to the Magistrate before whom the offending officer might happen to be prosecuted.

BARTABAHA,  
February 10th, 1883.

14. The same paper condemns the proposal to establish a Central

Local self-Government; a Central Board.

Board in connection with the scheme of Local Self-Government. Such an institution will interfere with the success of the scheme.

BARTABAHA.



The paid native members of the Board, who will in all probability have their appointments at the mercy of the European President, are not likely to act with independence. It will therefore come to this, that the whole power will be centred in the hands of one person—a result which can never be desirable. Then, again, it is not clear how long a member of the Central Board will hold office. It is necessary that this should be clearly stated. The writer's own opinion is that five years should be the longest period that could be safely laid down as the full term of office for a member of the Central Board. The editor, in conclusion, suggests that, if a Central Board be really considered necessary, it should be composed of at least 16 paid members, of whom eight should come from the eight Divisional Commissionerships in Bengal to which the scheme of Local Self-Government is at present proposed to be extended, and the remaining eight should be nominated by Government.

BHARAT BANDHU,  
February 10th 1883.

15. Regarding the proposal to appoint a ryots' representative to the Indian Legislative Council, the Editor of the *Bhārat Bandhu*, of the 10th February, considers Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee as peculiarly fit for the office.

BHARAT BANDHU.

16. The same paper contains an article on the constitution of the proposed Central Board. In the first place, the editor admits the necessity of a Central Board, but considers that the necessity will not be long felt. According to him the Central Board will be required for a few years only; after that the Board will have done its work. The editor is apprehensive that more evil than good will result from the Board, and that it will hamper the free action of the mofussil Boards. It is desirable that the Central Board should have as many representatives in it as there could be Boards in the mofussil, and that these representatives should be elected by the Boards themselves. A portion of the entire number of members might be elected by Government. A Board thus constituted will, it is hoped, be up to the duties that may in future be imposed upon it. In the event of any one of the mofussil Boards being found incompetent for its work, the representative of the Board in the Central Board might be sent to the mofussil to advise the members there.

BHARAT BANDHU.

Fresh date-juice included among intoxicating substances.

17. The same paper laments the inclusion of fresh date-juice among intoxicating substances.

BANGABASI,  
February 10th, 1883.

18. The *Banga Bāsi*, of the 10th February, contains suggestions and criticisms on the scheme of Local Self-Government, as expounded by Mr. Macaulay. In the first place, the editor remarks the exclusion of editors of newspapers from the right of electing members does not seem reasonable. Some fear, however, that in the event of editors being invested with the right, men who are really unfit to exercise such right may be induced to start a newspaper and thus to acquire the right. The editor, however, is unable to see much force in the argument, as the difficulty indicated may be met in a variety of ways. The Government might for the present bestow the right on those editors to whom it sends its reports, as well as on those whose papers have been in existence at least for two years. By this and similar means Government might remedy the defect that might possibly occur on account of the right being conferred upon editors of newspapers.

Again, the editor thinks that Mr. Macaulay's belief that District Boards are unnecessary is really founded on a mistake. In examining the arguments which Mr. Macaulay has brought against the creation of District Boards, the editor remarks that it is not a fact that the district head-quarters are devoid



of men having mofussil experience, inasmuch as there are no district headquarters where there are not at least two such men from each thanah. Again, even admitting for the sake of argument that Mr. Macaulay is right, the same objection might be brought with greater force against towns in sub-divisions. The editor points out that most of those who have a chance of being selected as representatives, and who are really fit to have a share in the work of Local Self-Government, reside in the headquarters of their district. Hence the conclusion of Mr. Macaulay that men living there cannot have any mofussil experience is not sound, inasmuch as these men often keep up a close communication with their villages. The editor has already in a former issue remarked that he was unable to see the necessity of creating a Central Board. He now comes forward with the suggestion that if the Government really contemplates creating the Board, then it will do well to nominate the members on the elective principle, and take one member from each Commissioner's Division. Then the number of members will amount to eight, and their services might be engaged on a monthly salary of Rs. 500 each. There is no need of giving them, as has been proposed, a salary of Rs. 1,250 per month.

The new Municipal Bill.

19. The same paper passes the following strictures on Mr. Reynolds' Municipal Bill:—

BANGABASI,  
February 10th, 1896

*Firstly.*—The editor is sorry that Government has taken into its own hands the power of electing chairmen generally. It is only in few cases that members are empowered in the Bill to elect their own chairman. This, the writer remarks, argues a great distrust on the part of the Government of Bengalis, and goes a great way to weaken the foundation of the Municipal system. The result of this policy will be that all the municipalities except some three or four will have their Chairmen elected by the Government, and it is possible that in half of the municipalities Magistrates will be selected chairmen—a state of things by no means desirable. If the Government is really willing to establish the system of Local Self-Government in the country, then it ought to see that no Magistrate is elected president.

*Secondly.*—It has been thought fit not to extend the right of selecting their own members to all towns indiscriminately. It may be true that there are places of which the inhabitants are really unfit to elect their own representatives; but that is no reason why the Government should reserve in its own hands this power of deciding what towns are or are not unfit to have the privilege.

*Thirdly.*—It is to be regretted that the Government is anxious to exercise its discretion in fixing the necessary qualifications of both the electors and the elected.

*Fourthly.*—It is laid down in section 20 that the Government will be competent to dismiss any Commissioner, when asked to do so by other Commissioners, in case he is found guilty of any misconduct, or of disgraceful conduct. But as the idea of what actions constitute misconduct or disgraceful conduct differ according to the standard adopted, and as different men have different standards, Government ought to specify the actions which it considers blameable.

*Fifthly.*—It has been laid down in section 21 that nobody who has been once in a criminal jail will be thought fit for commissionership. This the editor remarks is rather hard, and suggests that those only should be declared unfit for that office that have been found guilty of a non-bailable offence. Again, it is desirable to lay down that the dismissal of a member should be voted for by two-thirds of the members of the Board to which the member might belong.



*Sixthly.*—It is contemplated that females should be excluded from the right of election. Now this is hardly just. The women in this country have large estates, and consequently they ought to have a vote in the election of members.

BANGABASI,  
February 10th, 1883.

20. The same paper draws the attention of the Government to the inconvenience experienced by the passengers of the third and fourth classes on both the East Indian and the Eastern Bengal Railways for want of suitable accommodation, light, &c. The writer specially invites the attention of the Government to the Barakur line of the East Indian Railway, where, owing to the mismanagement and negligence of an East Indian station master, the trains are often either too late or too early, compared with the time as recorded in the time-table.

BANGABASI.

21. The same paper notices an instance of high-handedness caused by the Municipality of Howrah, in open violation of the provisions of the Municipal Act. A number of culverts and masonry platforms have been destroyed by Municipal servants although they had been built before the year 1876.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI  
February 11th, 1883.

22. The editor of the *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 11th February, complains of the hardship caused to those owners of date-trees, who manufacture molasses from the fresh date-juice, by the imposition of a tax on the latter substance. These men at least should have been exempted from the tax.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI.

23. The same paper contains an article on Mr. Cunningham's Minute on the Rent Bill. According to the Editor, Mr. Cunningham's Minute contemplates a total destruction of the class of zemindars. That the class of zemindars should be ruined is certainly not conducive to the best interests of a society. Again, it is because these zemindars exist as intermediate agencies, that the Government is able to realise its due without any difficulty. Again, whatever rights the Government may confer on other ryots, the ryots of Chittagong at any rate ought to form an exception, because, as the editor knows from his personal experience, in case these ryots are granted any permanent right, it will be very difficult even for the Government to realise its revenues from them.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI.

24. The same paper does not think that Mr. Ameer Ali would be a fit representative of the ryots in the Indian Legislative Council, and advocates the claims of the following gentlemen, any one of whom might be selected for the office:—Pundit Iswara Chandra Vidya Sagara, Babus Lalmohun Ghose, Gurudas Banerjee, Kali Choran Banerjee, Surendra Nath Banerjee, and Mr. W. C. Banerjee.

SADHARANI,  
February 11th, 1883.

25. The *Sádháraní*, of the 11th February, contains an article on Mr. Macaulay's Local Self-Government Bill. The editor disapproves of the proposal to create a Central Board. In the first place, the President of the Board, if selected from the rank of Commissioners, will possibly have more regard for the representations of Magistrates than for those of Local Boards. The members of the Central Board, every one of whom will be a Government servant, and the Inspectors under them, will have an eye to the interests of the Government, and while inspecting the Boards, are likely to see things through the eyes of Magistrates. So much for the Central Board.

That District Boards will be necessary in order to give effect to the Local Self-Government policy of Government can never be doubted. That the chief



town in each district possesses a sufficiently large number of able and learned men is undeniable. Again, if the members of District Boards be selected by Local Boards there will be no room for doubting the competency of the members. It is evident from Lord Ripon's Resolution that His Excellency is in favour of District Boards and District Councils. The fact is that some such intermediate agencies as District Boards or District Councils are absolutely necessary.

It is proposed to provide in the Local Self-Government Bill that Magistrates and Commissioners will have the power to close any Local Board in case they find that the Board is by its action doing injury to public health and peace. Now this is dangerous. Most of the Magistrates and Commissioners are, as the editor is well aware, against the proposed scheme of Self-Government, so that it will be possible for those gentlemen to interfere with Local Boards under the false plea of sanitary considerations, and then close them by virtue of the power with which they have been vested by law. That Magistrates and Commissioners should be thought fit to obtain such powers seems hardly reasonable, especially when there is no provision made against any act of misdemeanour that may be committed by them. The editor thinks it desirable that Magistrates should be allowed only to report on the proceedings of Local Boards, and then, on the strength of these reports, the Government may form its judgment. In conclusion, the editor is sorry to notice that in the Bill the European and Eurasian schools have been placed beyond the reach of Native supervision.

26. The same paper regrets to notice the miserable state of the Kotrung Municipality, chiefly caused by the negligence of the gentlemen composing the Municipal Committee, and the existence of the large brickfield of the Calcutta Municipality situated on the river side, and extending from one end of Kotrung to another. The men, about 1,500 in number, employed in the brickfield, commit nuisance in the river-bed, and the gentlemen of the local Municipality take no notice of the fact, as indeed of everything else affecting the health and prosperity of the inhabitants. In conclusion, the Magistrate of Serampore, the Chairman, is requested to pay attention to the affairs of the Kotrung Municipality.

SADHARANI,  
February 11th, 1883.

27. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 12th February, has the following observations on the proposed Rent Bill:—The proposed legislation is calculated to do more mischief than good. It will have the effect of destroying the good will subsisting between the zemindar and the ryot. It is true that, before the promulgation of the present rent-law, the condition of the ryot was miserable, but then the understanding between the ryot and the zemindar was good. The zemindar never exercised his right at the expense of his ryot. In most cases the ryot looked upon the zemindar as his guardian. The present rent-law has completely destroyed that good understanding between the ryot and the zemindar by bringing both to the same level. It has had another effect, namely, of draining the country of its wealth. It is a mistake to attribute the improved condition of the ryot to the rent-law. The fact is due to a development of internal trade. The writer believes that but for the promulgation of the present rent-law, the development of trade might have benefited the ryot a thousand times more than it has done.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 12th, 1883.

With regard to the proposed legislation, the writer observes: The proposed legislation, it seems, contemplates conferring certain new rights on the ryot with a view to encourage him in his efforts to improve his lands. It is admitted that the zemindar, by neglecting to improve his estate, has violated the conditions of the contract which he had



entered into with Government under the Permanent Settlement. The editor admits that the zemindar is guilty of the alleged violation of the contract, but denies that it is to be attributed to his negligence. The present law, he contends, is to blame for the effects which are ascribed to the negligence of the zemindar. The writer in conclusion suggests that the right which the proposed legislation contemplates calling into existence, might, with advantage, be conferred on the ryots of the middle class. These ryots of the middle class, most of whom are wealthy and enjoy the benefits of a liberal education, will, it is hoped, not misuse the right if it is vested in them.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 12th, 1883.

28. The same paper considers that, in most cases, District Boards will be required in order to give effect to the elective system.  
District Boards and Local Boards.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

29. The same paper regrets to notice that the Government has taken charge of the state of Mayurbhanj into its own hands, against the express will of the late Raja and the Ranee, and that in so doing it has violated the pledge which it had given to His Highness the Maharaja Jadunuth Bhunja.

Injustice done by Government to the State of Mayurbhanj.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

30. The same paper draws the attention of the Government to the tyranny and injustice perpetrated by the Magistrate and the Joint-Magistrate of Chittagong in the case of Taran Sing and others. That the Magistrate and the Joint-Magistrate are really guilty of tyranny and injustice is clear from the admission to that effect made by Mr. Field in his judgment. That is also the view taken by the Judge of Chittagong. Besides giving an endless trouble to the so-called defendants of the case, the Magistrate has needlessly squandered the money of a minor. The editor thinks that the Magistrate ought to meet with some sort of punishment.

Magistrate of Chittagong.

MEDINI,  
February 12th, 1883.

31. The *Medini*, of the 12th February, makes the following comments on local Boards and the Municipal Bill :—After censuring Mr. Reynolds for his narrow political views, the writer returns to the question of District Boards and a Central Board. The editor begins by remarking that Mr. Macaulay's Bill contemplates creating a Central Board consisting of three members—two Natives and one European, who is to become the head of the Board. Now, it seems hardly possible that these three gentlemen will be able to carry out satisfactorily the requirements of a new policy. Very likely cases of confusion will occur at the beginning, so that to provide against these probable cases of irregularity strict rules for inspection will be necessary. This again points to the necessity of some intermediate agencies as District Boards. The Central Board, again, contains elements within it which may, in time, prove detrimental to the interests of the policy of Self-Government. The Government, for example, acting through the agency of the Central Board, may guide all local Boards in the manner it pleases. Thus, it is easily conceivable that the Central Board may in time frustrate the objects of Self-Government.

Local Boards and the Municipal Bill.

MEDINI.

32. The same paper learns from the Bengal Administration Report for 1881-82 that a notice having been served upon zemindars, about 1,300 in number, entitled to an exemption from revenue demands on account of their lands being lost through diluvium, none but one appeared to enforce his claim. Now, asks the editor, is the fact as represented in the report credible? The Editor leans to the supposition that the notices had not been properly served, and asks the Government to institute a thorough inquiry into the real state of things.

Abatement of revenue.



In the course of his comments on the report, the editor comes to consider the khas mehal settlements, and remarks that the Government, by destroying the intermediate agencies of ijardars, aymadars, and jotdars, has fallen into a serious error. The editor cannot believe that the objects which the Government has in view in making khas settlements, namely, familiarising British officers with the condition of the ryot and preventing all possible oppression on the part of the ijardars, are likely to be achieved by its coming into direct contact with the cultivators of the soil. The probable result of such a measure as the above is likely to be that the officers of Government, instead of growing in local knowledge and experience, will learn to consult unduly the interests of the Government. Again, these officers have no chance of ever being able to hold direct communication with the cultivators of the soil, an end which is aimed at by those who would abolish the system of intermediate agencies.

33. The same paper notices an instance of the forcible removal of the veil of a Brahman lady, aged about 14 or 15, who was present in the Judge's Court at Midnapore as a witness. The editor remarks that the pleaders of the Court ought to have prevented the Judge from offering this insult to the lady.

MEDINI,  
February 12th, 1883

34. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 12th February, complains of the increased cost of litigation. According to the editor, the poor ryots, at any rate, ought to have been exempted from the unnecessary expenses of court-fee stamps, &c. In conclusion, the writer is glad to hear that Sir Richard Garth has written a letter to the Legislative Department with the object of lessening the cost of court fees. Government is asked to pay particular attention to the question.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
February 12th, 1883.

35. The same paper asks Government to put a stop to the oppression committed by Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors upon the khas mehal ryots. In most cases the demands of Government from its khas ryots are unjust. Owing to the highhanded proceedings of Mr. Westmacott and his Deputy, Baboo Jadub Chunder Ghose, the ryots, about 3,000 in number, have asked for permission to relinquish their holdings.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

36. The *Charu Vartá*, of the 12th February, makes some suggestions as to the means by which the defects of the present system of administration might be removed. In the first place, remarks the editor, India should not serve the interests of English party-politics. The defects under which the present administration of India labours might to a great extent be removed by nominating the retired Viceroys of India to the post of State Secretary, and by attaching some importance to the opinions of the Members of the India Council. At present it is curious to see the Secretary of State exercise influence over the Viceroy of India, whose actions are dictated by a personal experience of the country he rules. Again, while Ireland, with a population of five millions of men, has been permitted to send more than a hundred representatives to the British Parliament, it is strange that a country like India, with a population ten times as large, should have been excluded from the privilege of sending even a single representative. The people of India have come to think that until they are brought into direct contact with her rulers, she has no chance of seeing her evils removed. That India will in this respect be assisted by her State Secretary is scarcely to be hoped. He being an English cabinet minister, cannot

CHARU VARTÁ,  
February 12th, 1883.



have the courage of saying anything which will go against the interests of his country.

CHARU VARTA,  
February 12th, 1883.

37. The same paper makes the following comments on Mr. Cunningham's Minute on the Rent Bill:—It is well known that the Government, by enacting from time to time new laws and regulations affecting the zemindar and the ryot, has violated the conditions of the Permanent Settlement, and that these acts have always tended to ameliorate the condition of the ryot. But Mr. Cunningham would have us believe that the changes above alluded to have only made the condition of the ryot worse than it was before. Now, continues the editor, this argument of Mr. Cunningham is not even worth refuting. In order to show that the changes have always produced unmixed good to the ryots, the editor cites numerous examples. For instance, it was formerly considered that a period of 20 years was sufficient to create a right of occupancy; now, however, the limit has been reduced to 12 years. Has not this change done some good to the ryot? Again, Justice Cunningham has cited the case of the Pubna riots to prove that a feeling of hostility exists between the two sections of the people. But has he inquired into the real state of things so as to be aware of the exact share of blame which each party deserved in the matter? Another mistake is often committed by our Government officers, viz. that in estimating the position of the ryots they take the condition of the ryots in England as their model. It is surely desirable, the editor concludes, that the condition of the ryot should be improved, but then he is not a true benefactor of society who does not scruple to agitate it from an imaginary cause.

CHARU VARTA.

38. According to the same paper the principle upon which the Criminal Procedure Code is going to be amended is not a liberal one. The editor remarks that if His Excellency the Viceroy is really anxious to remove a stain from the British administration, then he ought to pass more liberal laws on the subject of the trial of European British subjects by investing the members of the Uncovenanted Civil Service with jurisdiction over European British subjects.

CHARU VARTA.

39. The same paper contains criticisms and suggestions on Mr. Macaulay's scheme of Self-Government. In the first place the editor remarks that for the purposes of the Local Self-Government, one Central Board will hardly be sufficient. Mr. Macaulay is unwilling to create District Boards. Considering the way in which those Boards were proposed to be constituted, the editor is in favour of their establishment. But then, he thinks there can be no objection to them, if they be simply entrusted with the duty of inspection. The editor is in favour of creating Divisional Boards. As there are nine Commissioners' Divisions, there will be nine Divisional Boards in case his proposal be accepted. These Boards will efficiently carry on the duty of inspection as regards local Boards. In conclusion, the editor exhorts the Government to show no niggardliness of spirit with respect to expenditure.

SOM PRAKASH,  
February 12th, 1883.

40. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 12th February, regrets to notice that Government is still endeavouring to increase its revenue from intoxicating substances which have wrought so much mischief in the country.

Drinking spirituous liquors.

SOM PRAKASH.

41. The same paper notices the miserable state of the villages in the vicinity of the salt-water lake at Dhappa, which is filled with impurities. The zemindars cannot be expected to take any steps in the matter. Another

Dhappa.



inconvenience is caused by the want of embankments for the protection of cultivated lands. The editor asks the Government to take due notice of the subject. Again, Mr. Stevens, the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs, is requested to construct an embankment on the bank of the river from the Road Cess Funds.

42. The *Sar Sudhanidhi*, of the 12th February, cordially approves of the proposed amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code, and hopes that under the liberal administration of Lord Ripon the

SAR SUDHANIDHI,  
February 12th, 1883.

Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code.

invidious distinction that now exists between native and European offenders as regards their trial will be entirely removed.

43. While expressing its gratitude to Lord Ripon's Government for undertaking an amendment of that portion of the Criminal Procedure Code which treats of the trial of European offenders, the *Bhārat Mi-*

BHARAT MIHIE,  
February 13th, 1883.

Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code.

*hir*, of the 13th February, expresses the hope that the legislature will proceed further and not halt midway. The proposed amendment, if carried out, will not entirely remove the invidious distinction which now exists between English and Native Magistrates in the matter of the trial of Europeans. It is exceedingly desirable that Deputy Magistrates also should be empowered to try Europeans.

44. The *Purusottam Patrika*, of the 29th January, makes the following observations:—Puri is a holy

PURUSOTTOM  
PATRIKA,  
January 29th, 1883.

A Sub-Inspector of Police and sacred sites in Puri.

place, and one of the chief places of pilgrimage. Besides the temple of Jagannath, there are many other sacred temples and muths in Puri. According to the Hindoo religion, Christians and other outcastes are not allowed to enter these holy shrines. In consequence of the constant influx of pilgrims in this place, there occur various cases pertaining to the temples which are enquired into by the Town Police. Mr. Graves is the present Sub-Inspector of the Town Police. The object of this article is to point out that it is desirable that a Sub-Inspector who has continually to investigate matters pertaining to Hindoo temples and holy places, should be Hindu; otherwise, in the discharge of his duties, much that is improper and unpleasant might occur. At times, in consequence of religious considerations, he might not be able to enter these holy places and investigate on the spot matters which come within his province. Should he, on the contrary, in consequence of some occurrence, have to enter prohibited places, he might dishonor the Hindoo religion. With a Hindoo Sub-Inspector at Pooree, nothing unpleasant could take place. Till lately the duties were discharged satisfactorily by a Hindoo Inspector; hence it is exceedingly desirable that the District Superintendent should substitute a Hindoo Sub-Inspector for Mr. Graves.

45. The *Balasore Saptahik Sambad Patrika*, of the 1st February, refers to the Government order to supply native papers with official information and

BALASORE SAPTAHIK  
SAMBAD PATRIKA,  
February 1st, 1883.

An appeal to Government.

annual reports. Only one of the four Uriya papers, *e.g.* the *Utkal Dipika*, is thus to be favoured. The writer is distressed on account of this injustice on the part of Government, and hopes that it will reconsider this matter.

46. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 3rd February, referring to the appointment of Mr. Bellett to officiate as Director of Public Instruction, says, considering that Baboo Bhudeb Mookerjee is an Inspector of a higher grade, to overlook him and appoint Mr. Bellett appears to many as an instance

UTKAL DIPIKA,  
February 3rd, 1883.

The impartiality of the Lieutenant-Governor questioned.



of invidious distinction made on account of color, and it is not right that the Lieutenant-Governor should give occasion for such a belief. It was the duty of the Lieutenant-Governor to imitate the generous example of Lord Ripon, who appointed Mr. Justice Mitter to officiate as Chief Justice. Thus in appointing Europeans and disappointing natives in regard to two other posts, the public have not approved of his judgment, and some are beginning to think that Mr. Thompson is not the kind of person they took him to be.

UTKAL DIPIKA,  
February 3rd, 1883.

47. The same paper, after giving the substance of the memorial to Government made by the Balasore Railway Committee, says :—"Though in our judgment the statistics have not been very carefully prepared, and the expected returns are somewhat over-estimated, we think the passenger traffic, after deducting that by steamers, &c., has not been much overstated. The petition being a reasonable one, there are sufficient reasons why Government should look upon it with favor, especially upon that part of it which refers to the opening of a railway to Midnapore. It would be a matter of regret if the memorial were rejected without proper enquiry. It is our humble prayer that the Government may carefully consider it. It is by no means right to keep distressed Orissa without a railway much longer."

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 17th February 1883.*